

Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board Meetings
Minutes
May 12, 2008

Members: Alan Bowser, Debbie Spielberg, Darian Unger, Marilyn Seitz, Lucinda Lessley, Mark Woodard, Megan Moriarty, Kathy Stevens, Phil Olivetti, Mitch Warren, Mary Pat Spon, Evan Glass and Tiffany Graham-Golden Deborah Linn, Cassandra Ford

Members Absent: Jerry Yokoyama, Fran Rothstein, and Victor Weissberg

Call to Order and Introduction: Debbie Spielberg, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. members and attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes: The Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board approved the April 14, 2008 minutes.

Community Comments

Bob Colvin handed out the Advocate East Silver Spring Citizens Association Inc. Newsletter.

Marcie Stickle reported that: "The Silver Spring Heritage Trail Signage panels that you'll see tonight are a celebration of and education about the cavalcade of people, men, women, children--our founders--who came before us to Silver Spring in the early 1900s and who brought us to where we are today. They created our original central business district centered around our Silver Spring Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Station, established our Park systems, and our service institutions.

"When we lost our 1927 Silver Spring National Guard Armory to demolition in 1998, to S.S.'s redevelopment, one of the legal County requirements was that there would be funded an historic Silver Spring walking tour with signage and brochures. 10 years later, we received the first installment for FY08. Tonight there is an important letter on the agenda for discussion and vote requesting the County Council to include the second installment for FY09 that the County Executive had not included in his budget, so that we can continue and complete Silver Spring's Heritage Trail. It has already taken 10 years to arrive at this exciting realization of Silver Spring's Heritage Trails along Georgia Avenue and Colesville Road, our Original Main Streets.

"Silver Spring Historical Society, Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission Office, Silver Spring Regional Services Center, with Montgomery Preservation Inc.'s participation, are partners in realizing Silver Spring's exciting Heritage Trail project."

Revision to Neighborhood Committee Minutes: Where it says \$60,000 for the Heritage Trail project, instead it should be broken down and say \$45,000 for FY 08, with \$15,000 additional through County Council Reconciliation funding for FY 08.

Councilmember Discussion:

Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County Councilmember reported that:

- This is her 2nd term as At-Large member of the Council, Chair, Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee Member, Planning, Housing & Economic Development Committee.
- We are in the middle of the budget and made no decisions so don't believe everything you read until the budget is finalized. Decisions will be made on contracts and revenue sources this week. We have delays on the Capital Budget because of fiscal issues. We are struggling with the Operating Budget and have included money for things like the pedestrian initiative, countdown signals, and added additional money for road resurfacing, tree maintenance and planting. The sidewalk at Dale Drive on the south side from Mansfield to Piney Branch was approved and to reduce cost and improve the way construction will affect residents we asked that they go back and do a redesign that will cut less into people's property. Councilmember Valerie Ervin had us add a pedestrian crossing and this is ready to move forward.
- With the Operating Budget we are trying to reduce the property tax impact. It is a very significant increase going from 6% on residential to as high as 40% increase in property tax rates for commercial and rental property.
- We are concerned about the multi-family impact that the current budget proposes. We are afraid that rent increases would be required by the property tax hikes on the table and this is the County Executive's which we find interesting and are trying to work out. Some of my colleagues have talked about the union contracts however we are going to look at reductions in spending across the board from different areas and conversations are going on with County employees. We hope that we can lower the tax increases to a manageable level and schools always get more than half of the budget.
- We had a number of cuts and Park and Planning will not come out of this easily but we hope folks will be fine with what we are trying to do. There will be a property tax increase under the current circumstances but we are trying to keep it as low as possible. The reason they turned to property tax is our revenue from recordation and transfer taxes are way down, 20% below budget and income tax returns are lower than expected. Traditionally it has been high enough that we could keep the property tax lower and now the equation has shifted. The number seems to be consistently projected and we don't think there will be a lot of surprises in revenue numbers.
- This is a very challenging time but by the end of this week there should see some clear resolution. We want to hear from you and what your thoughts are on what we should prioritize on but keep in mind money is tight. One concern is the State cut the transportation trust fund by \$50 million dollars a year for the next couple of years. We heard this was not going to be a problem but the challenge with government is they can not spend as much money as allocated in the course of a year. There are bookkeeping transfers that really don't have an impact on operations of government but more of an impact on when we spend the money. Apparently they were told in Annapolis that this was not a problem for the transportation fund but it appears vehicle registration and gas tax revenues are not as high as they anticipated. We are hoping those dollars and the rest of transportation spending for the State are not reduced. We are concerned about what it means

in terms of a couple of our roadway projects that they committed to and some of the transit things.

Discussion

Alan Bowser stated one issue the Board has been concerned about recently is the Silver Spring Library.

Nancy Floreen responded that her colleagues' concern is getting the best design for the library at the corner of Wayne and Fenton Street. They asked for a special process for the design of the library and how it integrates with the housing element and this is complicated because there is a housing project associated with it and the Purple Line location so there are numerous things to sort out. Money is in the budget to get started on the design and conversations will continue on the process. My colleagues added language to the approval that defines the process.

Gary Stith stated that part of the misunderstanding on by Council members is that attached to their memorandum are concept drawings done by the DPWT. These are concept drawings to show Council the things that they were interested in and making sure the housing, art space, library and Purple Line station were in the project and would fit. These are more of a massing drawing than anything else.

Darian Unger stated that discussion was held about delays not only in terms of the library but other things that have happened lately from sidewalks to the Civic Building and we have lots of commercial development in downtown Silver Spring but it is always the County Buildings and Plazas that are last. I think there is a fair amount of anti-delay sentiment here and we would like for you to try and carry this information back to your colleagues if possible. The pedestrian safety initiative seems to have been cut.

Nancy Floreen responded that she made a big issue about the pedestrian safety initiative and they never funded it. We found a way to fund some of it at least and we have already approved some funding from their slush fund this year, but don't have exact number with me but at least half of it is being funded. The problem is what was announced is not entirely funded but many of its pieces are being funded and it is a really important issue. As for the delays we are a County of process, we are high regulatory and have an abundance of rules and the market has no doubt contributed to the bidding process.

Mitch Warren stated that people are frustrated because of the period of time the library project has been delayed. We agree and hope Council will not further delay the library project because we need it done. Another concern is why we could not have done the design at the same time the County was trying to get access to land this seems like a further waste of years.

Nancy Floreen responded that the Purple Line issue made it difficult for property owners in the potential right-a-way to move. It is very difficult for anybody to know with any certainty what will happen until those alignments are resolved exactly what is left to work with. The housing market being what it is has been a factor in the decision because of the nature of the other players. The challenge with the government is once you start dealing with those that are not government things are more complicated. We are County processed with lots of transparency and it delays everything. Hopefully, the issue with this concern is what looks and feels right for Silver Spring.

Marilyn Seitz stated that there is a 20 year track and a 10 year track and they are still moving and we have not gotten to the end of when the track is ending and when these building are going to be built. I

figured out that the Purple Line and the Capital Crescent Trail through Silver Spring are on a 20 year track.

Nancy Floreen responded it is like the Green Trail down Wayne Avenue that is affected by the Purple Line issue.

Marilyn Seitz stated with the Civic Building they keep telling us construction will start shortly and we are frustrated when the information continues to change. The Board has been advocating for green but they don't want little pockets of green space.

Nancy Floreen responded that she would encourage the Board to advocate strongly for green in downtown Silver Spring.

Debbie Spielberg stated that she knew it would be a tough few years but asked Nancy Floreen to please put in a plea for bikeway maintenance.

Nancy Floreen responded that they had put in for some but does not think it will make it but they always have a slush fund.

Debbie Spielberg stated there have been numerous memorandums about the library and wanted to know if anyone had given any consideration or had experience with Form Based Zoning.

Nancy Floreen responded that the new thing in land use is Form Based Zoning and the idea is that you would be less structured by rules in advance and work with a design. We do not have a Form Based Zone in Montgomery County or a process.

Phil Olivetti asked about the pavement in Silver Spring. The county roads in the CBD are horrible. I contacted DPWT and heard numerous responses such as it's an infrastructure issues, cost issues and/or it's on the list. Driving through Fenton Village, by the Post Office on Second Avenue and Cameron the roads are horrendous they don't get patched and the potholes are likely to be filled but not well. How many times can you call DPWT and asked and how can one get things done when you don't live in that particular neighborhood?

Nancy Floreen responded that you can let us know about the problems and DPWT does try to do the best they can by following-up and tracking these problems.

Gary Stith responded that if you have specific potholes you can contact the SSRC or there is a place on Montgomery County website where you can report potholes.

Nancy Floreen responded that we actually solicit things like this because we watch it.

Phil Olivetti stated Silver Spring is suppose to be a crowned jewel of Montgomery County and billions of dollars have been invested in this community yet the roads are not even half way decent.

Nancy Floreen stated that on road issues they have always suffered from a lack of funding for road resurfacing and we have been trying to get money into that but the list is long

Gary Stith responded that Fenton Street was schedule to be resurfaced this summer.

Darian Unger stated the Board is not always asking for money. Recently we suggested money could probably be better spent in other ways than providing reimbursement for free library parking in Silver Spring and other libraries.

Debbie Spielberg stated they had heard it would cost an estimated million dollars for free parking at the library.

Nancy Floreen stated that free parking at the libraries is a hot topic and should we continue the policy of providing free parking for patrons at the Rockville library. We had a policy decision a few years ago and it has been back and forth. The money at issue is \$83,000.00 dollars and to us this is not much money. I think we are going to be very focused on a parking policy in the next year.

Debbie Spielberg stated that the Board originally agreed to support the concept of free parking at the library and than went back and said that this would favor cars over transit and that it does not make sense to spend our County money that way when there are other options.

Deborah Linn stated that she made a requested for road paving to Darian Unger for Manchester which is a main route.

Nancy Floreen asked that Deborah Linn send her an e-mail on the road paving.

Holy Cross Hospital Changes in Health Care in the region

Eileen Cahill reported that:

- Holy Cross is not opposed to Washington Adventist building a new hospital, but opposed to where they locate. Our concern is they are looking to leave a very critical service area the southeastern quadrant of Montgomery County which is the oldest, most ethnically diverse and economically challenged. In Takoma Park one out of five residents do not have a vehicle, therefore the community is not very mobile. The hospital in Takoma Park serves as a vital service to the people living in that area.
- There are five hospitals in Montgomery County and between Holy Cross and Washington Adventist, 54% of the discharges come from these two hospitals and the other three hospitals distributed the 46% so they are very well used. A big concern is the impact it will have on emergency service. Holy Cross has a bigger emergency department and Washington Adventist actually sees a sicker population and has a higher conversion rate of patients admitted to the emergency department. The fact that Washington Adventist wants to leave this very densely populated area and move several miles north away from a needed service area as well as the impact it will have on Holy Cross emergency department are our concerns.
- They had a successful hearing before the Planning Board and the Board gave them a favorable recommendation for the Board of Appeals and the case was heard before the Hearing Examiner last Monday. The Public Record is going to be open and this is just the one track. The other track is that Washington Adventist needs to apply to the State for Certificate of Need to close the existing hospital and open a new hospital. Councilmember Floreen did make reference to the fact that the Council was watching. When Washington Adventist first announce in 2005 that

they were seeking to shut their hospital and open a new one the conversation between our two CEO's was if that is what you need to do, as long as you stay inside the beltway, you will not have trouble from Holy Cross Hospital but if you are looking to move further away Holy Cross will be an interested party.

- We learned late in 2005, early 2006 that Washington Adventist had looked at an area they ultimately settled on and we were extremely concerned. We went to County Executive Duncan and asked him to conduct a Health Impact Study to look at the impact on the entire region and not just Holy Cross Hospital but on the safety net system, EMS system, Holy Cross Hospital and Health and Human Services in general. We will put our case before the State but the County needs to weigh in on this and do an independent credible Health Impact Study to assess what the impact on the region would be. When we go to the State we will be looked at as biased and they are going to view our data through that lens and we understand that and that is why we felt the County should do its own analysis. Mr. Duncan agreed to do the study and in the spring 2006 Washington Adventist pulled its initial Letter of Intent off the table and in the subsequent year Mr. Leggett became the new County Executive and when Washington Adventist announced the purchase of the property in Fairland we approached Mr. Leggett and he was sending us a signal that he was not in favor of doing a health impact study because ultimately it was a State decision he felt that it was not worth the resources and of course we disagree because in the State regulations it does ask for the local health department to weigh in to take a position and they want to hear what the local government wants to say. After several attempts with Mr. Leggett we realized that this was not going anywhere so we approached the County Council at various times they wanted to do a bigger and broader study to look at the whole County and not just the southeastern tier and an impact of the whole delivery system and we are not opposed to that it's just that the southeastern tier of the County has a big issue before it and maybe they could do it in phases. Some council member was holding that and when we lined up the votes to get the Council to actually vote and do the health impact study the \$4 million dollar budget gap was announced and Mr. Knapp, President of County Council put a hold on all supplementals.
- We did not contest the zoning case but we will be an interested party in the State along with other hospitals in that area. There are two separate things we are growing because the community is growing. The County in this general area grew 1% but our patient volume grew by 4%. Why? Because we serve a very large senior population and a large immigrant population and we are seeing both spectrum of life at Holy Cross Hospital. We have to expand to meet current demand.

Discussion:

Mark Woodard stated despite what we read in the newspaper about the proposed move the Maryland Health Care Commission has not approved the certificate of need for Washington Adventist to move and until that happens they can't go forward with the move is that correct? You made a number of very interesting points but could you connect the dots more explicitly as to why Holy Cross Hospital is opposed to Washington Adventist moving several miles north. The inference I drew was that the population and demographics in this area is not going to be as well served.

Eileen Cahill responded that Washington Adventist needs to have a certificate of need approved. We believe that there would be a negative impact on the southeastern tier of Montgomery County. The impact on Holy Cross Hospital, not only is a potential financial impact but also a potential capacity

impact and I can't give exact numbers because we have been working on reducing our diversion rates. Holy Cross emergency department is overwhelmed and often closed to ambulances because the Emergency Department, (ED) is bursting at the seams and sometimes there are no monitored beds in the hospital and subsequently ambulances are re-routed and this happens frequently at Washington Adventist Hospital as well. If you take a hospital out of a very densely populated area and don't know what the impact is going to be on our ED and we hoped that this would be one of things the County would study and the State certainly will look at it. We are very concerned on the capacity issue and our ability and it does not do any good to take one hospital out of the mix and paralyze another.

Mark Woodard stated that it seems like Holy Cross is concerned about its actual ability to take care of people and that it will put a strain on your existing facilities and possibly the patient mix.

Eileen Cahill responded that this was correct and that Holy Cross has a fabulous mission, charity care policy but it is also about balance and where Washington Adventist wants to move definitely a patient mix issue for Holy Cross Hospital.

Mark Woodard stated that he did not understand the hospital rate system as well as he would like to but always understood that compensated care is folded into the rates.

Eileen Cahill responded that on the in-patient side that is correct but on the out-patient side not always. Last year Holy Cross did \$20 million dollars in community benefit and over \$9 million in direct financial assistance which is the Charity Care. We believe we are good stewards and live to our mission but we need the balance of those that have choice to come to Holy Cross Hospital so we can continue to invest in our workforce, facilities and services.

Darian Unger asked about the total number of red alerts, yellow alerts and re-route times that Holy Cross has and that he had done some quick math and it is over 800 hours in half of a year which means one month per half year you are on code red, code yellow or full re-route and Washington Adventist has numerous hours of these per year as well. How many millions of dollars do you need for a study to tell you it will get noticeably worse? How much money was requested for this study?

Eileen Cahill responded that they know this. We believed the study would have cost less than \$200 thousand dollars and we always estimated that it would be between \$100 and \$200 thousand dollars to do a health impact study and felt it was a reasonable request.

Darian Unger asked if Washington Adventist is successful in moving, one of the possible alternatives for their current site is to keep an urgent care facility how much does that satisfy you.

Eileen Cahill responded that it would not satisfy Holy Cross at all because urgent care is like going to a doctor's office for the flu but if you walk into an urgent care center having chest pain they will call an ambulance. Urgent care for us is no substitute for an acute care hospital with an emergency department.

Debbie Spielberg asked what other hospitals serve these area besides Holy Cross and Washington Adventist.

Eileen Cahill responded Doctors Hospital in Prince George's County, Suburban Hospital and anything inside the beltway would be impacted by the move. Holy Cross Hospital would be impacted more and is probably why we are the most vocal about the issue. I would venture to say that when this goes before the State for a certificate of need you will see more hospitals as interested parties.

Mark Woodard asked if the deal for Prince George's County Hospital collapses as it does every year and the hospital system actually was forced to shut-down would it be a strain on all the hospitals Washington Hospital Center, Laurel, Holy Cross, and Washington Adventist do you have any comment on the impact of them not working through a deal and actually having a final deal that works.

Eileen Cahill responded that she is optimistic because the State and the County have come to an agreement. Last year after it collapsed after the last legislative session and the State was pretty much going to hold firm that it was going to allow the system to close unless they got some concessions out of the County. Secretary Palmer, the Secretary Health and Human services had started to put together task forces with other area providers and Holy Cross was asked to lead the Maternal Child Task Force because of our predominance in obstetrics. If this did not fall apart they would revert to almost the same and very quickly mobilize the other health care providers to ensure Prince Georges residents did not suffer or the other health care providers by asking everybody to pick-up the load.

Kathy Stevens asked when you originally discussed the survey with Mr. Duncan was there a projected timeline completion.

Eileen Cahill responded there was no projected timeline because we never got that far. I would estimate the survey could be completed in approximately six months by the time you hire a consultant, they design the instrument to go out in the field, do their assumptions and produce a final report.

Lucinda Lessley asked could Holy Cross pay for an assessment of this type.

Eileen Cahill responded that there has been discussion about Holy Cross paying with some of the other hospitals and it may come to that but we felt that the County needed to step up even with other hospitals agreeing to help fund the study will still be viewed with those lens.

Cassandra Ford stated that it was mentioned that 1 out of 5 in Takoma Park are without a car. How are people accessing Washington Adventist currently and how are they getting to the hospital.

Eileen Cahill responded that people in densely urban populated areas use public transportation. This impact study would be impact on EMS, road, transportation, safety, public transit, health and human services and the other providers.

Alan Bowser asked what the magnitude is for the increase in the uninsured population that uses the hospital for the course of the last five years that you called Charity Care and how fast has that been growing over the course of the last few years.

Eileen Cahill responded that a couple years ago they where at \$6 million and now \$9 million. We are projecting in the next year \$10 million. Maryland has a generous uncompensated care policy on the in-patient side if you get admitted to the hospital it is covered in the rates. The challenge for any hospital is

the out-patient side and some ED patients. We do a maternity partnership providing prenatal care for women uninsured. We operate a primary health care clinic in South Silver Spring for the uninsured in the Health Sciences Building at Montgomery College that we opened in February 2004. When we considered opening this clinic in the mid 90's we looked at where the gaps in service are and saw in downtown Silver Spring there was a big gap, we call this the gray zone where folks were gainfully employed but did not get health insurance through their employer. The Chairman of the Planning Board at that time was looking to make Montgomery College/Takoma Park the anchor of the redevelopment of South Silver Spring and asked if Holy Cross would be willing to be a part of that and go further south into Silver Spring. We liked this idea because we are a teaching hospital and Takoma Park is the most diverse campus at Montgomery College and the most bilingual so we saw the potential workforce for us because we set-up clinical rotation sites for nursing. Our goal is to have 10,000 patient visits a year by 2010. This has become another benefit to Holy Cross because we tried to decompress the emergency department by getting the frequent flyers that come into ED all the time or those that have no insurance and wait until they need medical attention. The goal was to give them a medical home but this has also become one way of decompressing our ED. We are in discussion with Montgomery County about opening two more clinics in Gaithersburg and Wheaton. The fourth most utilized zip code of our primary care clinic in South Silver Spring is Gaithersburg and the goal is the same to get up to 10,000 patient visits a year. As we look at expansion for Holy Cross hospital we are looking at how we can decompress the site because it is less than 14 acres.

Alan Bowser asked if this was a refinement of the answer from \$6 million dollars to \$20 million dollars and how does it translate into the number of people.

Eileen Cahill responded that she would have to get the numbers but every year the number continues to grow because the area is more challenged in population. We do our best to serve them by having all sorts of programs.

Chair Report

Debbie Spielberg reported that:

- Board elections will be at the June 9th meeting and we need volunteers to be on the nominating committee (Marilyn will Chair the committee Lucinda and Debbie volunteered as well)
- Retreat is Saturday, May 31 at the Urban District Office, 8110 Georgia Avenue 3rd floor from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Director Report:

Gary Stith reported:

- May 14, Purple Line Open House at East Silver Spring Elementary School, 631 Silver Spring Avenue, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- County Offices are closed May 26 for Memorial Day
- June 8th South Silver Spring Block Party at Kennett and Newell which is on the other side of East West Highway by Acorn Park 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Silver Spring Swings Concerts starts Thursday, June 12 through August 14, 7:00 p.m. at Silver Plaza on Ellsworth Drive between Georgia and Fenton.
- The building across from Discovery is being renovated and they have it on the market to lease it.

- The County PLD is going to do major renovation at the Spring and Colesville garage. They think it can be completed faster by shutting it down and should be opened before the hotel and United Therapeutics are done.

Q&A

Alan Bowser inquired about the Lot where the apartment building was torn down on Bonfiant what is the short term plan for the Lot

Gary Stith responded it will be filled with dirt, leveled out and grass planted. Once the grass is establish the fence will be removed and the space will be opened to the public.

Kathy Stevens asked for an updated on the Civic Building.

Gary Stith responded the Civic Building bids are in and they hope to post the contractor selected early next week. Once it is posted they can negotiate the contract with the contractor and construction should start early this summer. Every project has 5% deduct alternates and add alternates and they are going through that process on the project budget. They will negotiate with the contractor and get the price down and I don't think they will have to ask for more money.

Update on Urban District

Mary Pat Spon distributed an informal update to the Board on the Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee April, 2008 meeting. *(For complete details please refer to the Jon informational materials section).*

Silver Spring Library Update

Gary Stith reported that:

The County Executive and Council had numerous discussions about this project revolving around the design aspects. The Board asked why the design could not have been done earlier. We don't do designs on projects until we own the property and we are down to one piece and filed for condemnation on that property. We did not start design while still in negotiations for properties because that can impact negotiations and the County Executive primary concern was delay.

The County Executive and Council have come to an agreement and there is language in the Capital Budget describing what they want in this project. County Council wanted multiple concepts developed through a charette process that would involve a significant amount of community input and quarterly reports until we select a final concept. They specifically want a concept that involves a single building to include the library, housing and other uses and the concepts all need to include mix-uses with the library which is the primary reason we are doing this project with housing over it. The housing being proposed is 30% workforce housing, 30% MPDU's and 40% market rate. We are not talking subsidized low income housing, we are talking housing in the 60% to the 120% of medium income range. We are looking at arts, community uses and retail to activate the street and provide a connection between the downtown redevelopment area and Fenton Village. MTA has proposed that the Purple Line go through this site making the transition from Bonifant Street up to Wayne Avenue and this may be a good location for a station to service people on the east edge of downtown. Council wants us to look at a concept that maximizes the density for the housing. The drawings in the packet are some design

concepts and these concepts show a building but it is a massing not what the actual building will look like. We want to make this clear that this is a massing study and not a design study and it was used to demonstrate the massing of all these uses could fit on the site. The County Executive and County Council understand how important this facility is and continue their commitment to a high quality design. One issue of why we felt a stand-alone library with community and arts uses in it separate from the housing piece of it is when you go through the process of selecting a developer to work with you on housing that process takes time and negotiating agreements with that developer and the housing impacts on the design of the library underneath it and market condition could affect the timing and the ability to get financing for the housing. The County Executive was concerned if we tried to put them all in one building the housing would impact the schedule for the library so he wanted us to look at a design concept that would allow for a stand-alone library with arts and retail uses in it and separate from the housing and the library could move forward on its own timeline.

Jon Lourie stated his primary concern is getting the best building for Silver Spring. A Task Force was created to work as the community liaison with the County on the Civic Building and a design competition was recommended. The competition brought national design talents to Silver Spring and when the Civic Building is completed it will be a landmark building in downtown Silver Spring. There is sort of a theme here in Silver Spring that needs to be maintained in terms of high designed building and this is not always the case with public buildings. We don't want to delay the library project further but we want a very high profile designed project so how do we best achieve this? The Silver Spring community should play an important role in interfacing with this process so what is the best approach and how do we get the best talent on the project. With the County Executive proposing to separate the two I don't see green space and we have the Purple Line going through it so these are issues and this is a very complicated and important project and we need to pay close attention to it.

Mark Woodard asked Jon Lourie if he was going to advise County Council and County Executive what to do what would that be.

Jon Lourie responded that he would like to see some sort of competition go into the project and it needs to be discussed with all involved. The Civic Building Design Competition process generated a lot of public interest. Five teams designed five very different design ideas and it was stimulating and successful. I would like to see something like this for the library site. The question is what's the right format for this type of competition to avoid delay of the project?

Deborah Linn asked what the anticipated plan for the building is now that we have the property for the library site.

Gary Stith responded that there was a committee formed 7 ½ years ago and they have continued to work on it. The design funding is in place and the idea is to start construction in FY10 and open by FY12.

Deborah Linn stated that she did not want to delay the library project but design competitions are wonderful in theory but will delay the project. From a developer standpoint it is happily observed to try and build the library with the housing because they are so completely different and to try and go on the same track with the one design you will end up with a beautiful design and a very difficult development because the market is very different. The problem with all of this is the Purple Line and everybody is

going to wait to see what happens to the Purple line so they should start the design competition because we will be here forever.

Gary Stith responded that the County Executive does not want to wait on the Purple Line but he does not want to do anything on the design that would stop the Purple Line from using that site if that's the alignment chosen. Basically you will get a building that has a walkthrough plaza showing a purple line going through there.

Nancy Floreen stated people have mentioned green space and I would not feel constrained by assumptions. Perhaps what should happen is that it should be a different building on less ground and than you could have more green space and worry about the Purple Line whenever. I encourage you to focus on key things that you want to see.

Debbie Spielberg stated that the Board would be devoting a large portion of the June meeting to discuss the library project.

Strategic Plan

Marilyn Seitz and Lucinda Lessley reported that:

We have been working on the Strategic Plan plan, discussed it with the Board gone to all the SSCAB subcommittee meetings and presented the plan. This is a work in progress and we want input from all of you. We are trying to become more effective and focused. For purposes effective use of our retreat and time in the future we requested this vote. I move for a vote of confidence to continue design of a previously stated strategic plan.

Motion: (Seitz, Unger) The Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board agreed on the vote of confidence to continue design of the previously stated strategic plan.

Committee Summary Reports

Commercial Economic Development Committee

Phil Olivetti reported that:

- The last meeting summary is located page 18 of the packet. We have one action items regarding the Historic Markers and this letter requesting that the County Council fund the second installment to complete the Silver Spring Heritage Trail Signage Project. I move that the SSCAB vote to approve the draft letter submitted by the CED Committee

Motion: (Olivetti, Stevens) the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board agreed to adopt the letter to Michael Knapp, President, County Council requesting Council to fund the second installment to complete the Silver Spring Heritage Trail Signage Project. *(SSCAB passed with 1 abstention) (See informational materials for finalized letter)*

Transportation and Pedestrian Safety Committee

Darian Unger reported that:

- The last meeting summary is located on page 22. One constructive discussion at the meeting was dealing with DPWT and the next meeting will be Wednesday, May 28 and someone from DPWT will be discussing Bike Trails.

Neighborhoods Committee:

Alan Bowser reported that

- The next Neighborhoods Committee meeting is on May 19, and we will have two presentations. Dr. Anthony Messina, Head of School, will brief the Committee on proposed development plans for the Chelsea School and trying to have someone from Health and Human Services to discuss the health status of people in Silver Spring and following up on the discussion of health impact and we will probably draft a letter recommending that Council take up the issue of health impact to deal with the Holy Cross, Washington Adventist issues.
- Represented the Board at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Mary Center which is a maternal and child health center at Long Branch on Flower Avenue that will process hundreds of immigrants and low-income people that need health services.
- In the minutes are two important discussions the Committee had one was about storm water management and how we are polluting the Anacostia River led by Robert Boone, President of the Anacostia Watershed Society. The Watershed Society has a pontoon boat that carries 35 people and they have invited members of the Board and Neighborhoods Committee on a water tour of the Anacostia River at time agreeable to us.
- The other issue was foreclosures in Silver Spring and Mary Pat Spon had a particular concern about South Four Corners. We learned abandon property where people walk away from their houses when their loans go bad do a terrible thing to property values in the community. If you see houses where people have walked away, you can call Department of Housing and Community Affairs and talk with code violation people and they will put that house through the process. Essentially it does not lead to demolition but more often somebody will pick it up. We suggested the County think about picking up some of those houses and making them available for affordable housing.

9:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned

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